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MASSERA BLAMES ARMY FOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PY131944Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 2 PY

[Text] Paris, 12 Feb--The weekly POLITIQUE HEBDO reported here today that Argentine Junta member Emilio Massera claims that "the army alone is responsible for the Argentine economic crisis and for human rights violations in Argentina."

Under the title "Videla vs Pinochet...and Massera," the latest issue of the leftist Paris weekly published an article signed by Mario Bruzzi which says: "According to Admiral Massera, fascist groups are in action within the Argentine Army."

POLITIQUE HEBDO notes that, "thanks to the Chilean-Argentine dispute over the Beagle Channel, Admiral Massera has been able to separate himself from the miseries of daily political activity and to begin to forge himself an image as the defender of national interests."

The weekly adds: "Admiral Massera decided to confront General Videla and blame him for 'Argentina's bad international image' by proposing to publish a list of political prisoners, to have them judged by the courts, and to have a rapid return to democracy."

AGOSTI OPTIMISTIC ON CHILEAN BORDER SOLUTION

PY132232Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Feb 78 pp 8, 9 PY

[Undated exclusive interview with Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, Argentine Air Force commander and member of the government junta, in Buenos Aires]

[Excerpts] [Question] General, as member of the military junta, how do you view the situation between Argentina and Chile created by the Beagle dispute?

[Answer] Look, border conflicts with Chile have been for many years a serious obstacle to harmonious coexistence between the two countries. In this regard, the Beagle Channel conflict seems to be one of the last issues of a series of disagreements created by jurisdictional disputes.

Therefore, Argentina's objective is to eliminate any obstacle which may endanger coexistence between the two countries, which are naturally prepared to carry out the first stages of high-level studies of integration which would offer great benefits.

Our country's clear and sustained conciliatory position makes me feel optimistic regarding the final result of the conflict. I am optimistic because I believe that the two southernmost countries of the Americas now realize that in the common point of Cape Horn they have the starting point of a clear path toward joint integration, development and welfare. The commonsense and good judgment of the leaders and the people will prevail over biased interests.

[Question] Another issue is relevant: How would you define the country's current economic situation?

[Answer] I would define the current economic situation as a favorable dynamic evolution, subject of course to a number of readjustments which are the result of permanent measures which must be taken to comply with the guidelines set up on this matter for the process of national reorganization.

The process certainly had to start from an extremely bad situation, which makes the road to be traveled long and difficult.

I believe our economy is going through a period of transition, encouraged by many favorable signs. And due to this evolution there is hope for greater strengthening.

The current situation shows that not all the problems have been solved, but it also shows that the economy is beginning to point with great accuracy toward the objectives established in the process of national reorganization.

The attention given to unsolved problems should be emphasized. I am sure they will be solved within a reasonable time, as we are now doing, through the participation of all interested sectors and the persistence of the government in achieving the proposed objectives.

[Question] Do you believe it is still necessary to suppress political activity in Argentina?

[Answer] To answer your question I believe it is first necessary to review some facts which may have been distorted.

On 24 March, 1976, the armed forces assumed the government of the nation, but it did not establish any deadline for this government.

It was established that the stages within the national reorganization process were to be considered objectives, but without specific deadlines.

Furthermore, during the program of achievements without deadlines, the armed forces would guide the identification of the people with the great national objectives, with the aim of achieving progressive normalization of judicial, labor, social, cultural, economic and political organizations and institutions.

If we add to this that the aim of this process is the restoration of a representative and federal republic democracy which is fitted to the reality and demands of evolution and development of the Argentine people, the existence of currents of opinion and political groups is implicit.

Political activity, however, has been suspended to allow thorough study of the statutes which will regulate this activity. Until the study is finished, this situation will not change.

[Question] General, this last question will be an unavoidable subject of discussion during the next few months, as it was during the last months of 1977: What is the position of the air force regarding the integration within the power structure of the so-called "fourth man"? Does the air force believe this is the proper time for such integration?

[Answer] The statute of the national reorganization process is quite specific in establishing the structure which the government branches must follow.

It is well known that because of exceptional circumstances this statute was not strictly enforced and that, therefore, the government junta was forced to appoint the present army commander to hold temporarily and simultaneously with his army duties those of the presidency.

In this regard, we believe that since these circumstances have disappeared, we will return to the full enforcement of the power structure within the year in accordance with what is established in the statutes.

VIDELA, PINOCHET MAY MEET ON 19 FEBRUARY

PY131645Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] General Lami Dozo's trip to Punta Arenas yesterday is viewed as another step in the negotiations, and his talk with General Pinochet can lead to establishing the date for the second presidential meeting. It is hinted that the date for the next meeting will be Sunday, 19 February, exactly 1 month after the Mendoza meeting on 19 January.

It is also expected that before this meeting, a Chilean military mission will travel to Buenos Aires to complete review of the legal provisions to which the act and future agreements will have to conform.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT PERU IN MARCH

PY131150Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1038 GMT 12 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb--Foreign Ministry sources have reported that Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes will visit Peru in March. During his stay in Lima, which will take place the last week of March, Montes will sign a joint declaration with his Peruvian counterpart Jose de la Puente.

The joint declaration which the two ministers will sign is tied to trade and cooperation between the two countries, which have increased since the visit of Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla to Lima in April 1977.

INTERIOR MINISTRY SECRETARIATS REORGANIZED

PY110215Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 7 PY

[Text] A decree published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE has assigned new functions to the Interior Ministry under secretariats.

Under the General Under Secretariat are: the national or general directorates for coordination, management, legal affairs, social work and general archives of the nation.

The General Under Secretariat is also responsible for assisting the Interior Ministry regarding its relations with the national congress, the central government and decentralized agencies; the control of the work of operative units; the supervision of administrative, accounting and legal operations; and other similar functions.

Under the Interior Under Secretariat are: the national directorates for provinces and for political and informational affairs. Under the Institutional Affairs Under Secretariat are: the national or general directorates of migration, political planning, the Electoral Directorate and the Office for Development of Human Resources.

The preamble of the decree states that the General Under Secretariat's responsibility includes everything related to nationality; rights and duties of foreigners; supervision of the general archives of the nation; administrative matters of the federal police; questions regarding constitutional order, state of siege and constitutional rights; patriotic celebrations; care and use of national emblems and symbols and foreign symbols; and the control of migration affairs.

The specific responsibility of the Institutional Affairs Under Secretariat includes the preparation and implementation of national demographic policy; assistance to provincial governments regarding demographic programs, primarily those carried out in border areas; preparation of pertinent statistics; promotion of integration of foreigners; preparation of electoral laws; and control of the registration and personal identification of citizens.

It is specifically mentioned that the following agencies are directly under the Interior Ministry: the Federal Police; the Buenos Aires Municipality; the Fund for Retirees and Pensioners of the Federal Police; and the Government of Tierra del Fuego, Argentine Antarctic and Islands of the South Atlantic.

JUNTA DISCUSSES IMPORTANCE OF CORPUS PROJECT

PY101420Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0630 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb--Regarding yesterday's military junta meeting, a reliable Foreign Ministry source said that the coordination of the Corpus and Itaipu hydroelectric projects was among the subjects discussed, adding that there is general agreement that Corpus is a national priority, just like the Yacyreta project.

The source elaborated that some characteristics of the hydroelectric projects and the river will have to be recognized in order to reach a satisfactory solution and to remove obstacles for a better understanding and harmony in the region. The source continued that not only the country's legal rights and interests but those of other countries also should be contemplated. He concluded that the next trilateral meeting in Asuncion will probably take place late this month or early next month and that this meeting should be an occasion for these countries to express their political desire to reach an honorable and lasting understanding.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL WELL IN MENDOZA--Government Oil Deposits [YPF] has started production at a new oil well near Bardas Blancas in Malague Department in the south of Mendoza Province. The well is 2,300 meters deep and produces 13,000 liters of petroleum per hour. Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1355 GMT 11 Feb 78 PY]

TELEPHONE NETWORK FROM FRG--Munich, FRG, 10 Feb--The Siemens Electronics Company announced that it has signed an agreement of DM230 million with Argentina for the installation of a telephone network. The contract includes the delivery of 230,000 telephones and that the installations must be finished by 1982. [Paris AFF in Spanish 2058 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

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BOLIVIA

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LABOR LEADER URGES UNION REORGANIZATION

PY131800Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 13 Feb--Juan Lechin, top leader of the Bolivian workers, who returned to Bolivia a week ago from his exile, told AFP here today that "our main goal right now is to reorganize the unions." He said: "We are working for the reorganization of all unions in the country, based on democratic elections to nominate legitimate worker leaders. It is still too early to speak of a congress of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], because, first of all, we must think of the elections of unions, federations and confederations." He added: "Before thinking of the upcoming elections, there must be a unified electoral front, and that front does not yet exist."

Referring to the forthcoming return of Victor Paz Estenssoro, Lechin, top leader of both the COB and of the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB], added: "I have not seen Doctor Paz Estenssoro for a long time. Paz Estenssoro was a dictator within the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR]. When I left the party and was expelled, the most active union members of the MNR burnt their membership cards in great fires, beginning in the mining districts but spreading throughout the labor centrals," he added. Lechin was Paz Estenssoro's vice president between 1960 and 1964.

Lechin then said: "We cannot leave the tasks of union organization to parties of the left, all sectors must support that great labor democratization goal." "My party is in a weak position and its members are very enthusiastic. I do not have figures on the number of party members, because that would be difficult to estimate when referring to a party with popular support."

Lechin concluded: "The main task for all Bolivian political parties, whether of the left or of the right, is to reorganize."

COURT SAYS ELECTION OBSERVERS WOULD BE WELCOME

PY110217Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The National Electoral Court believes that political parties have the right to use the government-owned television and other means of communications of the state to carry out their election campaigns for the constitutionalization of the country.

These remarks were made by Julio Mantilla, president of the Electoral Court, during a press conference this morning. He said that the court will be pleased to see the presence of foreign observers and international organizations so that they can verify the legality and cleanliness of the elections to be held on 9 July 1973.

BRIEFS

GDP INCREASE--Bolivia's gross domestic product grew by 5 percent during 1977 to reach a total of 70.17 billion Bolivian pesos. The 5-percent growth was estimated in physical assets, since growth in absolute terms reached 19 percent. Per capita income in Bolivia during 1977 reached \$729 in terms of real prices, according to the official report, and \$670 in terms of physical assets, according to independent estimates. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY]

ITAMARATY SURPRISED BY CRIMMINS' REPLACEMENT

PY131705Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Feb 78 p 2 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Itamaraty spokesman counselor Felipe Lamprea yesterday said that the replacement of Ambassador John Crimmins was a surprise to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, which did not expect such a move at this time. There was no official comment on the change of the U.S. ambassador. The spokesman considered the move to be a decision made by the U.S. Government "which cannot be disputed by Brazil."

Lamprea confirmed that acceptance of the new ambassador was given "in 5 or 4 days," but he added that that speed should be considered normal. He recalled that Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira had been accepted as ambassador to Argentina (before becoming foreign minister) in only 4 hours.

The counselor said there are two reasons for the Brazilian Government's quick agreement to Sayre. The United States is a friendly nation and the ambassador's curriculum vitae was considered satisfactory, "containing nothing which could discredit President Carter's choice." He added, "Brazil's answer was quick not only in deference to the U.S. Government, but also in recognition of Ambassador Sayre's brilliant curriculum vitae."

The spokesman denied that the removal of John Hugh Crimmins had anything to do with "a new stage in Brazilian-U.S. relations." He added that "Brazil has never asked, and will never ask or even suggest, that the United States change its ambassador here for any reason."

"Brazil carefully respects diplomatic norms and principles concerning a country's autonomy. In the case of an ambassadorial appointment, a nation's autonomy is absolute. The other party has only to accept it or reject it. We accept the appointment. That's all."

Lamprea refused to comment on rumors regarding Crimmins' departure or on the role he played in directing the U.S. Embassy. Meanwhile, he said that right now Brazilian-U.S. relations are "good" and indicated that diplomatic relations between two countries "can face both excellent and critical moments."

Rumors that the departure of John Crimmins from Brazil meant the departure of the last factor hindering the evolution of bilateral relations toward a new phase favoring rapprochement, which would begin with President Jimmy Carter's visit to Brasilia at the end of March, took on added strength yesterday in spite of Itamaraty's official statements--which, by the way, were expected.

According to rumors, Crimmins is still associated with a difficult phase in bilateral relations because he was responsible for drawing up the formal statement on human rights which resulted in Brazil's denouncement of the military aid agreement. In other words, Crimmins is too strongly identified with a phase of strong U.S. pressures, not only with regard to human rights but also with regards to the boycott of the nuclear agreement with the FRG.

JORNAL SPECULATES ON CRIMMINS RESIGNATION

PY132255Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Feb 78 p 2 PY

["Castello's Column" by Carlos Castello Branco: "Retirement Just Before the Trip"]

[Excerpts] Brasilia--As a rule, changes of U.S. ambassadors to Brazil have always been motivated by political reasons: either when an ambassador becomes uncomfortable to the Brazilian Government or when he is no longer capable of clearly conveying U.S. policy. Yet for the first time a change of this nature is taking place on the eve of a momentous event in government-to-government relations: President Carter's visit to Brazil. The urgency which surrounded Ambassador Crimmins' replacement strongly suggests that he himself may have become aware that, if he stayed any longer, he could become an obstacle to a change of viewpoint in relations between the two countries, and thus he decided to face the problems of retiring on the eve of Carter's trip. This indicates that perhaps he is not willing to end his diplomatic career as an agent of political changes which are not in keeping with the line of action he has followed throughout his long tour as U.S. representative in Brazil. In 1976 Crimmins openly stated in Belo Horizonte that all governments must respect the citizen's inalienable rights. He made this statement following the election of Carter, whose ideas were then supported by that experienced, competent democrat officer.

It is appropriate to make a quick, although incomplete, review of the changes of U.S. ambassadors.

Finally, he had the Crimmins period, which was marked by frictions in trade relations during the first stage, and after Carter, by the increasingly obvious support given by Crimmins to human rights policy and a discreet condemnation of the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement. It was during Crimmins' period, however, that the Kissinger-Silveira declaration was signed, a fact which may not have made him very happy. Carter helped him overcome his temporary loss of prestige and again he complied with his duties with the dedication and shrewdness of a skilled professional. Although Crimmins received Mrs Rosalynn Carter, the fact is that he refuses to receive President Carter. Something must have changed, either regarding Carter or Crimmins, or regarding Brazilian-U.S. relations.

U.S. CONFIDENCE IN DEBT CAPACITY SEEN

PY140025Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Following instructions from President Geisel, the presidential press adviser held a press conference to report on the good results obtained by the planning minister in the preliminary talks he just held with U.S. credit entities on loans for Brazil. Although not mentioning the amounts or destinations of those resources, Toledo Camargo said: I know that the minister obtained very favorable conditions regarding terms, interest rates and amounts of loans.

In a statement to the U.S. press, Minister Reis Velloso said that U.S. bankers were impressed by the status of Brazil's balance of payments. He noted that he did not go to New York to obtain loans but to state clearly the Brazilian Government's priorities in the following areas: steel, petrochemicals, cellulose, shipbuilding, telecommunications and exports.

A few hours after the release of this report--which was confirmed by Minister Reis Velloso upon his return to Brazil--(Marinho Ferreira de Andrade), financial director of the Brazilian Iron and Steel Corporation [SIDERBRAS], reported in Brasilia that a consortium of 25 Japanese banks is investing \$110 million in increasing the capacity of the National Steel Company and the Sao Paulo Steel Company.

He also reported that he had been to Tokyo a few days ago, and that although he did not hold official talks, he found that there will be no problems in obtaining the \$613 million requested by Brazil to implement the Tubarao project, with the participation of Kawasaki Steel.

Many foreign and Brazilian economists have expressed concern over the Brazilian foreign debt. Major financial centers are highly sensitive: They either tighten or loosen credit depending on the deal proposed, taking into account not only profitability but also, and primarily, dependability. At this moment Brazil is proposing specific projects to which these loans will be earmarked and, after thoroughly examining the profitability of these investments, the world's financial centers are opening up, fearing no failures.

Although we have an extremely large foreign debt we have great chances of repaying each debt when it is due, and we are taking steps to this effect. Once it is concluded that a project promises to be successful, the contracting of loans to implement it means creating more jobs now and larger debt capacity [faturamento] in the future. This is the natural path to be followed to foster Brazil's economic development. At this point it is proper to add that these negotiations are being held in an election year, which is certainly a factor of influence in high-level transactions.

REIS VELLOSO PLEASED BY \$300-MILLION U.S. LOAN

PY140120Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Planning Minister Reis Velloso stated today that the \$300-million loan which was just obtained by the National Development Bank [BNDE] from the Bank of America clearly shows that Brazil has favorable foreign credit.

Reis Velloso reported that this loan will be earmarked for national private enterprises engaged in the area of basic inputs. He also noted that the loan was obtained under exceptional terms: repayable in 10 years, a 3-year grace period [prazo de carencia] and an interest rate reduced to less than 2 percent. He added that in view of the petroleum crisis every loan granted to Brazil since 1974 had to be repaid in no more than 5 or 7 years. He said: Now, we were able to obtain a much longer period and we will tend to further extend both the repayment and grace periods, since we have achieved quite a strong position considering our level of exports.

CUBANS OFFER GESTURE OF RAPPROCHEMENT

PY131937Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 78 p 24 PY

[By special correspondent Wagner Carelli]

[Excerpt] Havana--None of the 20 books submitted by Brazilian writers received a prize at the end of 3 weeks of deliberation, but Cuba remained interested in Brazilian participation in the 1978 House of the Americas literary contest, held in Havana by the organization of the same name.

For the first time, Brazilians participated in the group of 50 Latin American writers appointed each year to serve as a jury in a contest of international scope, previously restricted to Spanish-speaking America. In addition to recognition of Brazilian literature as part of the continent's literary work, the invitation to Brazilian writers Antonio Callado, Ignacio de Loyola Brandao, Fernando Morais and Chico Buarque de Hollanda can be construed, according to Cuban Government officials, as a gesture of rapprochement with Brazil.

ARCHBISHOP IS AIDING SOUTH AMERICAN EXILES

PY131625 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpt] Cardinal Eugenio Salles said yesterday that the Rio de Janeiro Archdiocese has been financially helping, for some time now, hundreds of Argentine, Uruguayan and Chilean exiles. During a press conference to announce the guidelines of the 1978 fraternity campaign, whose motto is "work and justice for all," Bishop Salles refused to give further details about the new mission--"for the good of all"--saying that he prefers to be charged with an omission "rather than making revelations which may endanger his work."

The cardinal archbishop of Rio de Janeiro does not know what the Brazilian Church is doing for the Brazilian exiles abroad, but argued: "I believe that local churches are doing for them what I am doing for others."

TORTURE ALLEGED IN TRIAL OF 42 FOR SUBVERSION

PY110223Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Feb 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Curitiba--The trial of 42 persons accused in a police-military inquest into efforts to reorganize the Brazilian Communist Party in Santa Catarina began yesterday in Curitiba. The defendants, arrested during the Green Belly [barriga verde] operation, are attending the trial while in freedom--with the exception of three persons who are fulfilling sentences for previous offenses. The public prosecutor's office asked for the acquittal of 23 of the defendants and 2-year sentences for 18 of the remaining accused, including four considered to be rebels. The prosecuting attorney asked for a 3-year sentence only for Teodoro Gerkov.

The defense's main allegation is that the laws do not allow a mere police-military inquest to be used as proof. In addition to that, some lawyers are arguing that the confessions were obtained while under torture. Sao Paulo lawyer Jose Roberto Leal, who is defending Milton Candido, yesterday stated that his client was tortured, and that his wife, two children, a brother and a brother-in-law were arrested without charge.

Operation Green Belly, which dismantled the Brazilian Communist Party in Santa Catarina, brought 94 persons to prison during 1975. The majority were acquitted or given sentences which they had already fulfilled while waiting for trial. Most of the remaining 42 [figures as published], whose trial started yesterday, have already fulfilled 2 years of detention, because the requests for conditional freedom requested during the end of 1975 were granted only last year.

According to trial reports, four of the defendants have admitted to participating in efforts to reorganize the Brazilian Communist Party in Santa Catarina, and all of these confessed they were sorry. The prosecutor's office is asking for acquittal for all four.

The remaining defendants, for whom the prosecutor's office is not asking any sentence, are accused of receiving the newspaper VOZ OPERARIA, or of contributing money to the party. Results of the trial should be made known today.

ARMY REPORTS ARRESTS OF SUBVERSIVES IN SAO PAULO

PY110036Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 78 p 11 PY

[Excerpts] The arrests made during the last few days by the DOI-CODO [Department of Domestic Operations-Internal Defense Operations Center] of Sao Paulo "were carried out in accordance with the law, and reported to the military judge." This report, disclosed yesterday by the Public Relations Department of the 2d Army, concerns the arrest of Doctor Robert Eats, Davi Gongora Junior, his wife Cecilia Satiko Kubota Gongora, and Amandio dos Santos. According to the 2d Army, the prisoners "have old links with terrorist groups," and "in addition to the dignified treatment given to the prisoners, the transfer of David Gongora to civil police jurisdiction has already been arranged." The report also informs that Cecilia Gongora "was not at any time imprisoned at the DOI's institution, but was given the freedom to return home after making a statement. However, since she is linked with a former terrorist organization, she will remain under guard at her home."

According to security organizations, the prisoners have links with the VAR-Palmares subversive group, and the arrests will serve to investigate existing subversive focal points.

ARMY CONFISCATES VAR-PALMARES ARMS CACHE

PY110031Y Sao Paulo AFP in Spanish 2127 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, 13 Feb--The Brazilian 2d Army reported here today that it confiscated arms and ammunition from the extreme left clandestine organization Revolutionary Armed Vanguard-Palmares (VAR-Palmares). An official note signed by Gen Dilermando de Almeida Monteiro, 2d Army commander, reported that the arms and ammunition were confiscated on Sunday during an operation carried out to "neutralize remainders of old subversive groups after the detention of VAR militants." The note adds that "the amount of arms and ammunition confiscated, and the fact that it was hidden until today, show that these arms could have been used at any time if security organization had been careless in their surveillance."

The VAR-Palmares was found in July, 1969 by dissidents of the Popular Revolutionary Vanguard (VPR) and the National Liberation Command [Commando de Liberacion Nacional] (COLINA), which carried out several urban guerrilla actions.

BRIEFS

ARAB BANK INVESTMENT--The Arab organizations' federation revealed yesterday that the Arab Pan-American Bank [as heard] has approved projects worth \$900 million, of which 30 to 35 percent will be invested in Brazil. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Feb 78 PY]

ARGENTINE MISTREATMENT OF CHILEAN MINERS DENIED

PY140145Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1830 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb--During an interview with LATIN, the president of the Turbio Miners Union, which represents Chilean miners who work in Argentina's Rio Turbio coal mine, denied rumors of bad treatment by Argentines. Cupertino Segura Vera said in Puerto Natales, Chile, where most of the Chilean miners come from, that "it is not true that we are not well treated." He added: "Nothing has changed recently, and we receive good treatment in all aspects of our life on the other side of the border."

With regard to rumors of sabotage and a period of military instruction, which the miners are reportedly going to get during their stay in Chile, the president of the mining union denied the alleged intensification of Argentine preventive measures.

With regard to a report that 1,000 Chilean miners were repatriated from Rio Turbio in the last quarter of 1977, Segura Vera indicated that this represented a hard blow to their families in Puerto Natales because most of the resources of that city come from the extraction of coal in Argentina. The Chilean labor leader recognized, however, that several months before Argentine officials had notified those who were expatriated that they had to put their papers in order to legally stay in the country, since they did not have the work permits which Argentina generously grants to foreigners, particularly people from neighboring countries.

CONCERN VOICED OVER BOLIVIAN VISA REQUIREMENT

PY101707Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--The Chilean Government has expressed its concern to the Bolivian Government over the problem created for Chilean citizens who are required to have visas to enter Bolivian territory. This document had not been necessary until 2 weeks ago. This report was released by Augustin Saavedra, embassy adviser and charge d'affaires. He held a long meeting with the director of the International Relations Department.

AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA TRANSFERRED TO SPAIN

PY081813Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] During his first press conference since he assumed his duties, Col Roberto Soto, Foreign Ministry under secretary, confirmed today that the Chilean ambassador to Argentina, Rene Rojas Galdames, has been transferred to Spain. He said, however, that this was a routine change within the national foreign service.

Ambassador Rojas has been in Argentina for more than 4 years where he has carried out his work brilliantly. There had been rumors about his transfer but the Foreign Ministry declined to confirm them.

BRIEFS

KOREAN DELEGATION--A five-member delegation from the Republic of Korea arrived in Santiago to discuss ways to increase cultural and commercial ties between the two countries. The delegation is here for 1 week and is led by Yi Pyong-chu. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1505 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY]

FOREST EXPORTS--Chilean forest exports during 1977 were \$240 million, a 33-percent increase over 1976. [Text] [Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Feb 78 PY]

GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECREE ON 26 FEBRUARY ELECTIONS

PA111210Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--President Alfonso Lopez' government announced today that governors will be authorized to suspend the elections for reasons of public order after consulting with the central executive branch. Should the public order situation make it necessary, governors, intendants and commissioners will all be authorized to appoint delegates, who will have the same duties as the presidential delegates [as heard; duties not further explained].

Through a [word indistinct] decree, the government has (?appointed) two presidential delegates for each department, intendancy and territory for the 26 February elections, in which new representative bodies will be chosen. The list of designated presidential delegates is as follows:

Antioquia	Juan Jacobo Munoz and Victor N. [last name indistinct]
Atlantico	Fernando Hinestroza Forero and Carlos Holguin Holguin
Bolivar	German Botero de los Rios and Hernando Zuleta Holguin
Boyaca	Jaime Michelsen Uribe and Anibal Lopez Trujillo
Caldas	Juan Francisco Villarreal and Pedro Manuel Arenas
Cauca	Guillermo Hernandez Rodriguez and Enrique Ocampo Restrepo
Cesar	Eduardo Nieto Calderon and Antonio Alvarez Restrepo
Cordoba	Jorge Mejia Salazar and Carlos Vargas Duarte
Cundinamarca	(?Saturia) Esguerra Portocarrero and Ramon de Subiria
Choco	Angela Gomez de [names indistinct]
Guajira	Dario Pacheco Jaramillo and Leon Pozo Arboleda
Huila	Cesar (?Ordonez) Quintero and Alfredo Rios
Magdalena	Joaquin Vallejo (Alvarez) and Alvaro H. Calcedo
Meta	Diego Linaz (?Pimienta) and Camilo J. Cabal
Narino	Raimundo Angulo Pizarro and (John) Agudelo Rios
Norte de Santander	Carlos Restrepo Piedrahita and Jaime (Camino) Echeverri
Quindio	Haroldo Calvo Stevenson and Gabriel Gutierrez Tovar
Risaralda	Jorge Arenas Buenahora and Ernesto Martinez Capella
Santander	Marina Uribe de (?Else) and Carlos Monroy Reyes
Sucre	Eduardo (Doyle) and Hernan Rodriguez
Tolima	Emilio Apure and Carlos Urdaneta Holguin
Valle	Carlos E. Vargas y Rubiano and Gilberto Arango Londono
Arauca	Jose Vicente (Barardinelli) Solano and Santiago Alvarez Lopez
Caqueta	Hernan Garces and Miguel Aguilera Reyes
Casanare	Adolfo Mina (Balandra) and Benjamin Lopez Ramirez
Putumayo	Guillermo [names indistinct] and Alejandro Martinez Cuenca
San Andres Islands	Gloria Zea de Uribe and Beatriz Saiz de [last name indistinct]
Amazonas	(Enrique) Samper Pizano and Antonio Jose (Tapur)
Guainia	Eduardo Rojo Acuna and Pedro Arturo Sanabria
Vaupes	Hector Prada Salas and Gonzalo Coroba
Vichada	Marcos Ahumada Navarro and Oliva Escotino de Baron

Whenever deemed necessary for reasons of public order, governors will be empowered to suspend the elections. But this measure will be adopted only after consulting with the central government and after hearing the opinions of the presidential delegates.

Article three: [as heard] Governors, intendants and commissioners will be authorized for reasons of public order to appoint delegates, who will have the same duties as the presidential delegates. These delegates will represent the governor, intendants and commissioners in the municipalities to which they are designated.

Article four: The delegates to which this decree refers will receive 800 pesos in ordinary currency. They will also receive traveling (?fees and tickets). They will have to be at their posts [word indistinct] from Friday 24 February until 28 February.

Article five: The payment of the expenses to which the previous article refers will be made in accordance with chapter three, Article 1013 of the national budget currently in effect.

Article six: [words indistinct] release and execute it.

Bogota, special district [signed] Government Minister Alfredo Araujo Grau

BETANCUR REJECTS PRESS SOCIALIZATION PROPOSAL

PA131401Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0150 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 12 Feb (EFE)--Colombian presidential candidate Belisario Betancur tonight disagreed with President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen's proposal to "socialize" the national press. Betancur, the Conservative Party's only candidate, said that the Colombian papers have functioned correctly within their traditional mechanisms.

Appearing on the Todelar program "Technicians and Politicians," the political leader said "I am totally opposed to a government that constantly fights public opinion. I am totally opposed to 'quarreling' governments, to quarrelsome governments."

"The president likes quarreling. That is the way he is and therefore, of course, a respectable way to be," Betancur added. He also said that the Colombian press as it stands is a worthy one, and has contributed positive services to the country. "I do not see the need to try other systems. We have a free press which supports democratic sentiments and freedom, and has proved its loyalty to such freedom," the political leader said.

The socialization of the national press was proposed by President Lopez Michelsen on Thursday during the commemoration of journalist's day. The nation's papers immediately protested the president's proposal, considering such a possibility to be unnecessary.

Betancur also accused the two Liberal precandidates of sectarianism and self-perpetuation. He said, contrary to Turbay and Lleras, I do not plan to make a "Liberal republic," but a national republic..."a republic of Colombia, with all and for all."

EPL GUERRILLAS ATTACK BUS IN BOGOTA

PA092306Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2153 GMT 9 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 9 Feb (AFP)--It has been learned that four Colombian guerrillas, one of them a woman, today attacked a bus in southern Bogota and, at gunpoint, forced the passengers to listen to their revolutionary speeches. (The rebels, members of a command of the pro-China Popular Liberation Army) (EPL), referred to the high cost of living and asked the astonished passengers to abstain from voting in the presidential elections that are to be held in June.

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E C U A D O R

G 1

REFERAL REFERENDUM RESULTS PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

20140358Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] The Supreme Referendum Tribunal, led by its president, Galo Plaza Lasso, has given the Supreme Council of Government the final official results of the referendum held on 15 January 1978. Galo Plaza Lasso, president of the Supreme Referendum Tribunal, delivered the following speech:

[Plaza--begin recording] Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government. Mr President: Today, following the appropriate convocation, the Supreme Tribunal of which I am honored to preside over proceeded to make a final tally of the returns of the referendum held on 15 January of this year, as established in the accompanying act of the meeting.

In accordance with Article No 41 of the referendum statute and through your honorable person, I hereby notify the Supreme Council of the results of that referendum:

For the new constitution: 807,574 votes.

For the reformed 1945 constitution: 582,530 votes.

[This is done] so that the corresponding decree declaring the implementation of the constitution chosen by the people may be issued. Sincerely yours, Galo Plaza Lasso, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISCUSSES ELECTIONS

2021657Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito--The new elections law to be issued soon will state that all candidates to a popularly elected office must be sponsored by a legally recognized political party, Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin said during yesterday's news conference.

He also reiterated that Ecuadoreans living abroad and illiterates will not be able to vote in the 16 July presidential and regional elections. The voting lists for those elections will include the citizens who have been reissued identification cards as of 28 February. Minister Jarrin said that so far nothing has been said about the alleged inclusion of a provision requiring the application of a measure similar to the organic law of the armed forces. Such a law in effect says that the commander in chief, that is the president of the republic, should, like the generals, be the son of an Ecuadorean father and mother. This provision would affect one candidate. In any case, Minister Jarrin said that a provision of that type should [words indistinct] in the elections law which should be completed on Monday.

He reiterated that there will be runoff elections if no presidential candidate obtains an absolute majority, that is, more than 50 percent of the votes.

The minister denied that Sixto Duran Ballen, presidential candidate of the Constitutionalist Front, is the official government candidate. He also said that Dr Hurtado is free to ask for his resignation. During the news conference the minister was questioned on the rumor that presidential candidate Sixto Duran Ballen is the official candidate.

He said that the government is (promoting) broad freedom of expression and opinion. As a minister I respect those opinions. If we wanted to launch an official candidate, there would have to be a law to be able to do so. There is no official candidate, he stressed.

The minister was also asked about the repeated demands for his resignation by Christian Democratic President Osvaldo Hurtado. Colonel Jarrin answered that Christian Democracy is free to ask for his resignation. It has the right to (express its views) as long as it does not offend the dignity of persons because then the matter would enter into the legal area. If Dr Hurtado does not like it that I am a minister, unfortunately he does not have the power to force me to resign. I will remain a minister until the Supreme Council of Government decides to remove me, Minister Jarrin said. I would like to take this opportunity, he added, to tell you that after the overwhelming success of the development of the referendum the Supreme Council of Government graciously congratulated me for all the actions of the Government Ministry in the implementation of the juridical reorganization plan and the holding of the referendum. I think that this is the best reply to Dr Hurtado's statements, Minister Jarrin said.

Colonel Jarrin explained that his visit to the United States was to have a medical checkup at St Luke Hospital in the Houston Medical Center. The results of the examinations are that I have a slight ailment that can be cured by the treatment I am to follow, he said. The minister indicated that he returned via Mexico City in order to obtain firsthand knowledge and to resolve the many problems usually faced by Ecuadorean citizens who (go to Mexico) in view of the agreement on visa-free entry into Mexico. He said that there are currently several Ecuadoreans in Mexican jails. Some have been used to ship drugs and others have been duped with work contracts and permits to enter through Mexico into the United States and Canada and have been subsequently deported and tried for falsifying documents. That is why, the minister said, I ask my fellow citizens not to be taken in by these despicable frauds which will not only cost them money but might mean a prison sentence.

BRIEFS

OIL EXPORT FIGURES--Forty-one percent of the petroleum exports made by the Texaco Company and the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation was sent to the U.S. market, 18 percent was sent to Panama, 17 percent to Peru and 11 percent to Chile. Of the 50,453,106 barrels of crude sold during 1977, 20,151,005 barrels were shipped to the United States. [Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA]

POLITICAL GROUPS REJECT ECUADOREAN AMAZON CLAIMS

PA132010Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 13 Feb (AFP)--Several Peruvian political parties, movements and personages today voiced their support to a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry that rejected Ecuadorean claims to some territory of the Peruvian Amazon area. That communique last Saturday rejected the statements made by Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso, who on 9 February, pointed out that his country "has more right to own" the Amazon area.

Javier Arias Stella, national deputy secretary of the Popular Action (AP) Party of former Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, announced that his party "fully supports the vigorous Peruvian rejection of Ecuador's claims over the Amazon region." One of the top leaders of the Peruvian Aprist Party (PAP), Luis Alberto Sanchez, said that "treaties are enforced, regardless of what they are, and more so if they have been ratified."

The leftist Popular, Student, Peasant, and Worker Front (FOCEP) pointed out that it "fully supports the vigorous decision of our foreign minister rejecting the outrageous aspirations of Ecuador." An outstanding historian, professor, and writer, Jorge Basadre, pointed out that the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol is a fait accompli and there is no room for discussion. This protocol of peace, friendship and borders is between Peru and Ecuador. Its guarantors are Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States.

Javier Ortiz de Zevallos, president of the Peruvian Democratic Movement (MDP), recalled that the protocol "put an end to the border problems with Ecuador and was ratified by the congress of both countries" and signed by the abovementioned guarantors. Victor Freundt, president of the National Union (UNO), pointed out that his party protests "the new attempts of Ecuador to ignore the Rio de Janeiro Protocol."

CGTP ANNOUNCES STRIKE FOR 27, 28 FEB

PA120333Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2325 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 11 Feb (AFP)--The General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) has decided to stage a nationwide strike on 27 and 28 February, it was learned here today from trade union sources.

A meeting of approximately 400 delegates from all parts of the country agreed this morning to stage the strike in demand of the reinstatement of 3,000 trade union members who were dismissed for participating in the 19 July strike which protested against the government's economic policy.

The participants at the meeting considered that the conversations with the government on the reemployment of dismissed workers have not yielded satisfactory results.

The CGTP meeting also resolved to reiterate confidence in Isidoro Gamarra and Eduardo Castillo, two main communist-leaning labor leaders whose order to call off the strike originally scheduled for 23 and 24 January was questioned by ultraleftist sectors. The participants at the meeting decided to meet again on 23 February to confirm the holding of the strike if their demands are not met by that time.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION CUT THREATENS NATIONAL BUDGET

PA140102Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2129 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 13 Feb (EFE)--Venezuelan petroleum production, which during the first days of this year decreased considerably in comparison to last year, will compel this government to limit its economic programs. Daily production is now at 1,713,696 barrels, representing a 27.48-percent decrease from the same period in 1977. Also, this year's national budget, set at approximately \$11 billion--of which petroleum revenues contribute 93 percent--was projected on the basis of 2.2-million-barrel daily production, thus resulting in a reduction which must necessarily affect implementation of the budget.

However, government spokesmen during these last few days have said that measures applied to confront the situation will in no way affect the national budget and the various allocations will be maintained. Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo said today in Caracas that there are fiscal and financial systems available by which the government can overcome the crisis created by the drop in petroleum production without changing its budget.

Official sources said today that this problem was one of President Carlos Andres Perez' main concerns. He has instructed his advisers and the government's technical organizations to study the necessary measures. Finance Ministry, Venezuelan Central Bank and Energy and Mines Ministry experts are now studying alternative solutions that will not sacrifice government programs and maintain them in line with the existing national budget.

In spite of this, it was unofficially learned that the Mines and Energy Ministry has suggested that the budget goals set for the nation's 5th plan, estimated on the basis of a daily petroleum output of 2.2 million barrels, can no longer be attained. The ministry added that the production program can be maintained if production shows signs of recuperating by the 15th of this month, increasing the present production by 400,000 barrels daily.

On the other hand, former Venezuelan Mines and Petroleum Minister Juan Pablo Perez Alfonzo, known as OPEC's father, today said that the petroleum production decrease was favorable for Venezuela because it agrees with the hydrocarbons conservation concept.

BRIEFS

INCREASED TRADE WITH JAPAN--Caracas, 10 Feb (VENPRESS)--Hiroshi Mitsukawa, a Japanese Government official, announced in Caracas today that Japan will invest some \$250 million annually in Venezuela to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries. The official said that Japan will purchase annually some \$200 million in aluminum produced by the Venezuelan Aluminum Company (80 percent of which is owned by Venezuela and 20 percent by Japan, as well as some \$50 million of other as yet undetermined products. Mitsukawa is in Venezuela at the head of a visiting trade mission. [Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA]

VI. 14 Feb 78

MEXICO

M 1

POLITICAL ASYLUM GRANTED TO TWO NICARAGUAN STUDENTS

PA102226Y Panama City in Spanish 2130 GMT 10 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 10 Feb [ACAN-EFE]--The Mexican Government today granted political asylum to two Nicaraguan youths who requested it last Wednesday. The two youths have been identified as students Pedro Jose Chamorro Arguello and Oscar Cortes Marengo, who feel that their freedom is threatened following their participation in the recent student demonstrations against Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime. Juan Cortes, charge d'affaires at the Mexican Embassy here, today officially notified the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry that the two students had been granted asylum.

In 1977 two groups of Nicaraguan professionals, professors and students traveled to Mexico City after having stayed at the Mexican Embassy for a long time.

NATION WILL BECOME MAJOR PRODUCER OF PETROCHEMICALS

FL092155Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2120 GMT 9 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Feb [ANSA-INFORMEX]--With the construction of five major petrochemical projects, which will require an approximate investment of \$4 billion, Mexico will soon become the world's fifth producer of petrochemicals, behind the FRG, Japan, England and Canada. According to an announcement made by Patrimony and Industrial Development Secretary Jose Andres de Oteyza, these projects will be built in Cactus, Amatenango, Tabasco and Veracruz.

BRIEFS

PETROCHEMICAL INVESTMENT--Mexico City, 7 Feb (EFE)--A Mexican Petrochemical Commission spokesman today reported that Mexico will invest 90 billion pesos (some \$3.9 billion) in the petrochemical field over the next 5 years. This investment will increase production by more than 125 percent and will generate 70,000 jobs. The government-owned company Mexican Petroleum will invest the largest amount, \$2,234 billion. The investment is in addition to the \$1.195 billion already being used for the creation of several firms in southeast Mexico. Total production by 1982 will be 27 million tons against the 12 million tons currently produced. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0334 GMT 8 Feb 78 PA]

NEW LITERARY SUPPLEMENT--Mexico City's Arts Institute has begun publishing a 16-page literary supplement informing Mexican readers about Cuba's literature. The supplement now in circulation contains five articles signed by distinguished Cuban intellectuals. More than 300,000 supplements of this edition were distributed inside newspapers of national circulation. [Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA]

FEDERAL TAX REVENUES--According to the preliminary figures of the Programing and Budget Secretariat, the gross tax revenues of the federal government amounted to 210.972 billion pesos during 1977. This figure is 56,468 million pesos more than in 1976 when the tax revenues amounted to 154.514 billion pesos. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA]

COMMITTEE VOICES CONCERN OVER U.S. SENATORS' ATTACKS

PA131827Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 6-a PA

[Resolution issued by the National Committee for the Defense of Sovereignty and Peace in Panama City on 12 February 1978]

[Text] Whereas the U.S. Senate is currently discussing the approval of the Torrijos-Carter treaties;

Whereas many of the views aired in the U.S. Senate constitute strong attacks on the dignity of the Republic of Panama and its leaders and might lead to a destabilization of Panama's internal forces;

Whereas, in view of these circumstances, certain bad politicians are trying to take advantage of the situation in order to benefit the unpatriotic interests of the oligarchy; and,

Whereas the campaign undertaken by the most reactionary U.S. circles is intended to harm Panama's international image;

The National Committee for the Defense of Sovereignty and Peace (CONADESOPAZ) resolves:

1. To urge the Panamanian people, especially the organized groups among them, to be vigilant and remain calm concerning the proceedings of the U.S. Senate;
2. To contribute so that the leaders of the revolutionary process will not sway from the patriotic and firm line that they have followed for many years regarding the struggle for national liberation;
3. To let it be known that the Panamanian people repudiate the slanderous and injurious manner in which some senators have referred to the Republic of Panama and its leaders;
4. To sound an alert to all the patriotic and progressive forces which support the just Panamanian cause throughout the world so that they will not be surprised and confused by the international campaign orchestrated against Panama.

[signed] CONADESOPAZ National Secretary's Office

CRITICA SCORES U.S. SENATORS, NATIVE OLIGARCHY

PA132154Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 4 PA

["Bona Fide" column by Camilo O. Perez: "Conversation With the Leaders"]

[Text] The situation is extremely delicate. It is a psychotic situation with signs of a complete loss of control. We must not fall into this type of situation. Fear is taking over everywhere. Comments on the treaties are cause for alarm, and what is even more censurable is the fact that each word, idea, or article is only acceptable if it does not affect or harm the sensitivities of some U.S. senators.

This fear does not apply to us, because it is not like us to hurt others' feelings. However, we feel disillusioned when we listen to some leaders in this country. We are asking them to have more confidence in the people, in our struggle organizations and in our position, which already has the support and backing of many nations. It is a position stronger than any threat, stronger than the claims constantly voiced by certain senators and some representatives of the Panamanian oligarchy which still live.

There is solid proof of U.S. political leaders' meddling in Panamanian affairs. We are drafting bills and discussing amendments just to meet the demands of sectors which want society to remain basically unchanged.

The spirit of many Panamanians who hope for social changes is being overtaken by deep sorrow. We just have to listen to some conversations to realize that an exaggerated cautiousness is being observed and that there is a fear about saying anything. And, conversely, there is no reason for it. Every Panamanian patriot is prepared to make the greatest sacrifice on behalf of the country's highest interests, without ever asking for participation in the government. It is not that important.

It seems like an imposition from those who in their anemic Senate sessions are making the most inane insults to the dignity of the nation. Still they insist on running, through Panamanians who have always been under the protection of Yankee tutelage, the government, the economy and the nation's future.

For this reason, today we feel somewhat discouraged when we see a series of laws, decrees and maneuvers being implemented to appease the rapacity of some senators.

Let us not lose faith in our strategy. Some explanation is due. The lack of guidance is censurable and if it prevails it can lead to chaos, possibly today or tomorrow.

PANAMANIAN POLITICIANS HOLD MEETING IN CORAL GABLES

Communique Issued

PA132003Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Feb 78 pp 1, 21 PA

[Text] The announced meeting of organized Panamanian political groups with Dr. Arnulfo Arias opened at 1600 on Saturday in Miami but without the presence of any representative from the Liberal Party [PL].

Former President Arias, who is in exile in Miami, met privately during the morning and part of the afternoon with each one of the Panamanians who traveled to Miami to participate in the meeting with him.

Participants at the meeting were:

For the Panamenist Party [PPF], in addition to Arnulfo Arias: Hildebrando Nicosia, Luis Felipe Clement, Guillermo Endara G., Jose Salvador Munoz, Napolson Salazar and Carlos Salazar.

For the Republican Party [PR]: Jose Dominador Bazan, former vice president of the republic, Ruben Dario Carles and Jose Alonso Jurado.

For the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]: Ricardo Arias Calderon, Luis Emilio Veces, Guillermo Cochez and Dr Cecilia Endara.

For the Democratic Independent Movement [MDI]: Dr Fabian Echevers, Dr Manuel Garcia Almengor and Dr Tomas Herrera.

For the Social Democratic Party [PSD]: Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, who traveled from Caracas, Venezuela; Eusebio Marchosky and Guillermo Ford. The last two are in exile in Miami.

The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Hallandale. The absence of the PL was due to a last-minute decision made by David Samudio, who bowed out saying that "the mere fact of meeting outside Panama jeopardized approval of the treaty."

Yesterday, Sunday, the five political groups met again at 1100 to sign a final document summing up the topics discussed. The meeting was covered by U.S. television stations and a score of newsmen. After the signing, Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon addressed those present on behalf of the group. Arias Calderon, a former vice presidential candidate for the PDC, read the document in English and Spanish and fielded questions from newsmen.

In one of its main portions, the document affirms that the meeting was held outside Panama because "the most outstanding political leaders" are in exile and because hundreds of other Panamanians are also in exile.

The document, approved unanimously, says among other things that: "We are committed, in view of Panama's history and the will of the Panamanian people, to work for the establishment of a democratic order which will provide Panamanians with structures for peaceful participation and will replace the current dictatorial order. Because we wish this democratic order to be established without violence or destruction, we warn those illegally holding power that the country demands the immediate initiation of a formal process of democratization."

The document lists four fundamental points, to wit: "1) rejection of the current political system of government; 2) struggle for the establishment of a constitutional order guaranteeing the direct election of a president, a legislative branch and an independent judicial branch; 3) return of exiles because the situation now being experienced by the country demands the total unification of the Panamanian family; 4) Any modification, reform, amendment, clarification or addendum to the treaties requires a new nationwide plebiscite according to the present constitution."

The document ends with the following proclamation: "We proclaim our conviction that the exercise of democratic rights and duties to eliminate any possibility of the perpetuation of the dictatorship requires the political and civic organization of the Panamanian people."

The document was signed by the following persons: Arnulfo Arias for the PPP; Jose Dominador Bazan and Ruben Dario Carles, Jr for the PR; Luis Emilio Veces and Ricardo Arias Calderon for the PDC; Fabian Echevers and Tomas Herrera for the MDI; and Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra and Eusebio Marchosky for the PSD. Also present at the signing were Manuel Maria Almengor for the Movement of Independent Lawyers as well as outstanding political leaders such as Cecilia Alegre, Jose Salvador Munoz, Luis Felipe Clement, Guillermo Endara, Guillermo Cochez, Jr and Hildebrando Nicosia.

We have received the following communique from the PDC for publication:

Communique of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party:

The Panamanian Christian Democratic Party reports the following in connection with the meeting of representatives of political parties currently being held in the United States:

1. It is necessary to form a political front of national unity in order to provide guidance for the citizens in regard to the country's future.
2. Representatives of the political parties participated in the implementation of this initiative, which resulted in the summit meeting.
3. In view of Dr Arnulfo Arias' unconstitutional exile, it was necessary to hold it outside the country.
4. As the representative of the Liberal Party, David Samudio took an active part, proposing and agreeing to conditions such as the date and place for the meeting currently being held.
5. The new treaties are an accomplished fact in Panama and, unless changes are introduced in the U.S. Senate, their ratification is considered a fact. For this reason they were not considered part of the agenda, a fact which was known by the representatives of all of the political parties.
6. The communique from David Samudio has been a surprise because of the inaccuracy of its contents and the fact that it obliquely suggests an innocence which is inconsistent with his actions during the preparatory stage of the meeting.
7. We are under the impression that the Liberal leaders will take into consideration the performance of their representative vis-a-vis the search for ways to lead us to a full enjoyment of democracy.

[signed] Clovis Aleman Jr, assistant secretary general

Arias Ridiculed by MATUTINO

PA132110Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 4-a PA

["Bitacora de la Redaccion" column]

[Text] Those who attended, thinking that they were going to find a party boss ready to reach a political alliance against the Panamanian revolutionary process, were frustrated.

They all had to admit behind the scenes and in poorly disguised fashion that the boss of the Arco Iris [estate] has not changed. He is still entrenched.

The participants were not accorded the treatment that their status required. The egotism of the man of the pitcher [symbol of the Panamenist Party] prevailed and, despite his 78 years, he treated the participants not as "needed allies" but as "fishy-washy" figures who wanted "to take advantage of his charisma."

The boss screamed most vociferously when the topic of holding a "constituent assembly" was brought up. That idea had to be discarded because he and only he is still the "constitutionally elected president," and "today, tomorrow or sometime in the future" he will have to serve his term.

When the participants looked at one another with a look of discouragement, the followers of the 80-year-old party boss voiced their unconditional support for his views.

Then, the few participants who held views contrary to those of the former overseer of the Arco Iris estate realized that they were a minority and that their views would not be heard.

It was then that they fully realized the shrewdness of Don David's [Samudio] Liberals. The experience of the Liberals showed them that "Fufo" [alias of Arnulfo Arias] could not care less. In other words, he is the proverbial dog in a manger.

Therefore, Coral Gables was just a bad dream. The tables were turned on them.

And we say that the tables were turned on them because the real, fundamental motive of those who went to Miami was not just to issue a communique or a manifesto.

Their aim was to firmly commit the boss of the Arco Iris estate to stage a show about his returning to power for the sake of publicity.

And it was on this point that they ran out of luck, as the saying goes. The party boss and Janca coffee phantom owner decided not to play their game. Not so much because he is too old to get into mischief but because he does not stand to gain anything from staging such a show whereas his wishy-washy allies do.

That is why, in a climate of hidden frustration, not wanting to return home emptyhanded, a two-page communique was signed on a "unity" that is weak from the very beginning.

There was not much fuss about the manifesto. The 80-year-old Panamenist Party boss put it very well to one of his followers when he said that "you can put down anything on paper."

On the contrary, there was a lot of pressure on all the participants to have a picture taken together as a "historical memento." The doctor of medicine [reference to Arnulfo Arias, who holds a medical degree] has been very careful not to let anyone take a picture of him lately.

Almost playing along with Panama's archenemy, Ronald Reagan, the manifesto was supposed to aim its criticism at the treaties and Carter's support for them and the Panamanian Government, and that is how it was drawn up.

Snickering, Fufo's wishy-washy "allies" left the meeting for home hoping that someone would give them a welcoming ceremony.

Since daydreaming is free of charge the doctor's frustrated allies seemed to ignore that their people will not mount a welcoming ceremony for anybody but their party boss.

Those who were most aware of that fact tried to book plane flights that would arrive in the wee hours of the morning in order to hide their frustrations in the dead of night.

More Criticism of Arias

PA131832Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 28 PA

[From the "La Llorona" column]

[Text] In his Miami declaration, Fufo spoke of "democracy" and "dictatorship." How soon he has forgotten how he handpicked deputies and councilmen just 12 hours before his inauguration [on 1 October 1968]!

If that is not dictatorship and if that is what Fufo calls democracy, he had better stay in Miami and reconsider the arbitrary actions he has committed throughout his long and unmistakable [as published] political career.

Speaking about politicians: While in Miami the leaders of the traditional political parties were trying to get together on how to attack the revolution. [Panamanian Vice President] Gerardito Gonzalez was meeting in La Atalaya with the outstanding militants of the revolution of the central provinces. Everyone is active.

Radio Mocks Meeting

PA132317Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Station Director Danilo Caballero commentary: "Coral Gables: A Political Antique Shop in 'the Valley of the Fallen Ones'"]

[Text] According to an old African legend, when elephants become senile they look for an isolated place to die, thus fulfilling some sort of rite. We do not know for sure if there is any basis for the legend or not, but we do know--and this we can say with certainty--is that there is a very similar process in Latin American politics. The politicians of the oligarchy, the traitors and those who have been left behind by history also have a common place to die: Miami, a place which Torrijos once described as the valley of the fallen ones, which is the same as saying home for those who qualify. And, where else but in Miami, in Coral Gables, to be more precise, could the politicians of Panama's recent political past gather around a decrepit old man who is a symbol of what has been left behind? This is what the Coral Gables meeting was: a desperate and vain effort to give life to organizations that have died under the weight of history. The political leanings of these organizations during the oligarchic self-styled governments are of no importance. In the past they exchanged insults, rabidly fighting for the steak of political power and for favors. Today, acting like brothers in their frustration, and united by an open hatred toward our revolutionary process, they publicly embrace each other, showing that they are all the same: the tools that imperialism and the oligarchy traditionally used to exploit Panam as if it were a private farm.

In Coral Gables, under the protection of those who always ordered them about as they pleased, the former bosses of fraud and lies met with their most outstanding teacher, amid drinks and smiles, to discuss Panamanian politics. It was a curious thing but that is what happened.

Miami comprises the exact dimension of the political spirit of that meeting. They probably felt at home there. They were happy to say "yes" [in English] between speeches, a "yes" rehearsed in decades of practice, for Miami is viewed by America and the world as a symbol of counterrevolution and the postmark for those who have no fatherland.

And, what was the conclusion of the Coral Gables picnic? Although this will not sound logical, the politicians had the audacity to talk about their commitment to the Panamanian people and to warn that the country needs a quick democratization in order to build structures that will permit the participation of the people and replace the present dictatorship. Here the incongruence reaches its limit. Here we have persons who have been arrested in Panama for conspiring and for plotting coups and attacks, and who, thanks to the generosity of the revolutionary government, are not only free but can also travel to Miami--their spiritual homeland--and cynically say that the freedom they enjoy does not exist. And these persons speak of dictatorship and sign a document to that effect. And there is also an alleged concern for the people. When were they ever concerned about the people they now claim to represent? For decades they persecuted, tortured and murdered the people systematically. We are not talking about abstract ideas; most of those who signed the document [presumably the Coral Gables communique] have been linked to the self-styled government which repressed, betrayed and committed crimes against the people.

We established the similarity at the beginning of this commentary. Now we realize that comparing the elephants graveyard to the witches' brew that was served in Miami shows a lack of respect toward the elephants. And we are not talking for the sake of talking: There is another legend that an elephant has a great memory. The flunkies of the oligarchy who met in Coral Gables have none since they forgot that as long as they live their past will follow them. They have earned their status. The people, gentlemen in the valley of the fallen ones, do have a good memory and they will never forget what you represented in our fatherland.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SPEAKS ON COMMUNISM

PA140254Y Panama City RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Why is there still a continuing fear among some of you whether this government is or is not communist, or if there are persons of certain tendencies in the government, Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes, agricultural development minister, asked in a meeting with representatives of Chiriqui's agricultural, trade and banking groups held in Volcan yesterday, 12 February. The minister said in his speech: You can be sure that if this revolutionary government had not taken to the fields and mountains to help the hundreds of thousands of our fellow countrymen who still live in misery, then you would really be frightened and [word indistinct]. But that is not the case. Referring to the corregimiento representative system, Lieutenant Colonel Paredes said it is not perfect but it is much better than the previous one. The minister presided over a meeting in El Volcan with the most representative sectors of Chiriqui's producers.

BELIZE

PRICE ADDRESS TO NATION ON ANGLO-Guatemalan DISPUTE

FL111830Y Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES in English 5 Feb 78 pp 11, 12 FL

[Address to the nation by Premier George Price--date and place not indicated]

[Text] My fellow Belizeans,

I would like to report to you on the present situation regarding the Anglo-Guatemalan dispute after our talks in London earlier this week.

No agreement on a settlement was reached. The Belize Government maintained its firm stand on territorial integrity and on full sovereign independence. We got the renewed assurance of the British Government to continue to defend Belize, and we maintained friendship with the British Government for it is the British who are committed to our defense. We received renewed assurance from the British Government that it will not go ahead with any kind of settlement unless such settlement is acceptable to our government and people.

It was not possible for me to reveal at an earlier date the details of the negotiations which have been going on over the last two years because as a responsible government we were committed to the normal rules of keeping confidential certain matters between governments; to do otherwise could have endangered the very security of Belize. We must bear in mind that this confidence was required by the United Kingdom Government, which is responsible for the defence of Belize. One wrong step or irresponsible word could lead to border incidents which must be avoided because our first concern is the safety of our land and its people.

You must know also that the opposition United Democratic Party was informed about all the proposals made at the three negotiating sessions with Guatemala and that they were present at two of these meetings including the most recent one at Washington in July of 1977. It is important to note here that it is the opposition who at one stage decided to withdraw from the negotiations.

In all these negotiations, the government maintained its long established policy that in seeking a just and honourable solution to the dispute there are two points of principle which are not negotiable: The first is the sovereignty of Belize and the second is the territorial integrity or the firm policy of not giving away any Belizean land.

This is the reason why our government has spent so much time and effort in the last two years attending meetings and gaining international support and examining every possible avenue for a settlement that would be in accord with our two basic principles of land and sovereignty.

In the course of negotiations, the United Kingdom and Guatemala exchanged views on various proposals or ideas for a settlement. In order to help in these discussions these proposals or ideas were put in the form of a draft treaty. There has been no agreement on these proposals or ideas; and the treaty has not been signed by anyone because it has never been agreed to.

The proposed draft contains ideas and proposals relating to economic co-operation, consultation on matters of mutual interest in foreign affairs and consultations on defence and security. There were provisions for a non-aggression pact--that is, we would not go to war with each other. There were limitations on Belize's right to enter into military arrangements with other countries--that is, Belize would not sign military pacts with countries which differ from our democratic way of life. Guatemala was offered a seaward boundary to provide her with a guaranteed access to the high seas through her own territorial sea. This would give up territorial sea which at present does not belong to Belize.

In the same proposed draft treaty there were provisions for the use of each other's port facilities and for the use of good road access to these facilities by free transit of non-military vehicles, ships and aircraft. It was further proposed that Belize become a member of the Organization of American states; that Belize accede to the Rio Treaty and enter into economic and trade arrangements with Central America. All these proposals are compatible with our existing commitments to the Caribbean community. Other proposals include joint development projects and a joint development fund.

I repeat that these are all suggestions, proposals, ideas and that no final agreement has been reached.

A settlement of the claim is essential for orderly and progressive development and for continued progress to a safe and secure independence and economic development. We recognize that the people of Belize cannot continue to live under constant threats, fears and insecurity caused by the unfounded Guatemalan claim to our land.

The secure independence of Belize with all its territory has been an objective endorsed by the people in six successive national elections. In 1974--three years ago--both political parties went to the people with election manifestoes supporting the independence of Belize. The only obstacle to achieving this objective is the Guatemalan threat, and this threat will not go away by itself. It is our sacred responsibility, as a government having a mandate from the people, to seek an acceptable solution.

The British Government must also assume responsibility to achieve this settlement. That is why for seventeen years we have co-operated with the British Government in search for a negotiated settlement which will allow Belize to move on to independence in peace and security.

Over the past twenty seven years we have worked and we continue to work toward this objective. Twenty-seven years is a long span in a life-time. So it is no sudden impulse or mad rush to independence regardless of the consequences. Real and effective security is basic to our move to independence. This is a commitment by which we stand.

From the beginning we knew that to achieve a securely independent Belize with sovereignty over all its territory is not an easy task; it is a task for giants.

We propose to do this difficult task either of two ways. One is by a negotiated settlement. The other is to get a security arrangement with the United Kingdom alone or with the United Kingdom and other countries.

In our international work to attain this objective we have won strong support from the commonwealth heads of government, from the Caribbean community, from the non-aligned movement and from the United Nations for the secure independence of Belize with its territorial integrity.

Against this background of strong international support there were negotiations between the United Kingdom and Guatemala. At the three meetings to which I referred earlier in this address--one in New Orleans, one in Panama City and one in Washington--our government stood firmly on the United Nations and Commonwealth resolutions.

Since the Washington meeting the British Government has been having discussions with Guatemala which imply a possible land cession or giving land as a means of settlement. These discussions covered various proposals referring to areas bounded by rivers--from the Monkey River to the Temash River--and to areas bounded by lines drawn on a map of southern Belize which include continental sea shelf, sea bed, and some of the southern caves.

A proposal which the British believe might provide a settlement is an area which I estimate to be about one thousand square miles made up of about three hundred square miles of mainland south of the Moho River and about 600 to 700 square miles of continental sea shelf, sea bed and cays from Ranguana southwards. This information I gave to the London press conference on January 25th when asked what as the land proposal under present consideration.

In November 1977, I was informed in the strictest confidence about these discussions about giving up land; and as the foreign secretary has confirmed in the House of Commons, I protested and reaffirmed the determination of the Government of Belize to maintain the territorial integrity of Belize. This was during the time that we were working at the United Nations to achieve the resolution in favour of the secure independence of Belize with all its present territory. This resolution was passed in the United Nations by an overwhelming vote in our favour.

About this same time I was informed by high officials in the State Department of the United States of America that they were aware of the proposals for ceding Belizean land to Guatemala. Subsequently I was also informed by an official of the State Department that the United States is not advocating any one type of solution to the problem, but that it believes that any solution has to involve land cession.

As a result of this information in our possession, my colleagues and I who advise on external affairs contacted Commonwealth Caribbean governments, the United States Government, and other governments of the Organization of American States informing them of our strong opposition to giving away land and asking for their help.

These developments came to a head in London on January 24 and 25, 1978, when the foreign secretary, Doctor Owen, discussed with us the United Kingdom's view on the possibility of a settlement based on land cession.

We again maintained our position on no land cession, but rather than causing a breakdown in the talks and endangering the safety of Belize, we asked that negotiations should continue in the hope of finding a solution that would achieve a secure independence for Belize with its territorial integrity. We placed in first order of importance the security of Belize.

In summary these are the main points of the London talks:

1. There was no agreement on a settlement.
2. The Belize Government stood firm on their policy of territorial integrity and rejected the idea of any land cession.

3. The foreign secretary noted the position of Belize but maintained that the United Kingdom Government has a responsibility to continue the search for a negotiated settlement which might include land cession, despite our opposition to giving away land. The British Government did however give an assurance that no agreements would be made which were not subject to the approval of the Belizean people.

4. I requested that any proposals which the British wished to support should be put directly to the people of Belize in some form of referendum, plebiscite or consultations, and that the Commonwealth should be associated with this process of consultation. The foreign secretary agreed to both these requests. This means that you, the Belizean people, will have a clear opportunity to decide on any definite proposals for a settlement of the dispute. In this connection you will wish to note that Doctor Owen has stated to the House of Commons that when the British Government feels there is a proposal which the people of Belize should consider, it will be put to them. The British Government will then make a recommendation, but he has undertaken that there will be no pressure from the British. The choice will be free.

5. The foreign secretary agreed that Britain will continue to honour its defence commitment whether or not the people of Belize, after consultations, decided against any specific proposals.

My fellow Belizeans, the road ahead is not easy, nor is it clear. A settlement based on land cession or on erosion of sovereignty is not acceptable to our government. At the same time we must realize that under the present constitutional arrangements, the British Government maintains its responsibility to pursue any course which they believe will result in a securely independent Belize. Our safeguard is that they have promised to consult the people of Belize before agreeing to any such settlement.

Without a settlement Belizeans will continue to live under the constant threat of Guatemalan aggression, propaganda and subversion. Fear and uncertainty will prevail, development will be retarded and instability will be the order of the day. Guatemala will have more time to develop its military machine and to win over more traitors.

But let us not underestimate the tremendous support that Belize has gained over the last three years. World opinion is on the side of Belize. With continued struggle and dedication to the ideals of our peaceful, constructive Belizean revolution, we will find a way to settle this dispute--which we have inherited and which is older than all of us--and we shall find a way at the same time to preserve our basic rights. We must continue the struggle to advance, for in constitutional development, if a country does not go forward, it tends to go backward.

While we do our very best to maintain our position on land cession, our task is made more difficult by voices opposed to our government which speak at home and abroad in favour of land cession and by voices which use rumour and speculation and falsehood to try to undermine our government because our government is against giving away land or degrading its sovereignty.

Despite this adversity, let us remain calm and resolute as we continue to build this new nation and preserve its heritage of land from the Rio Hondo to the River Sarstoon. As we build we offer the hand of friendship to live in peace and harmony with all our neighbours and with the peoples of the whole world.

Let us unite to save Belize. This should not be difficult, for deep down in our hearts we must be one people with a firm will to preserve all our land and to be free and fully sovereign.

We pray to the Lord of the Universe that we do not build in vain but with His divine help and together as a well-deserving people we build the new nation of Belize undivided and secure in its independence.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

PY132014Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Feb 78 p 12 PY

[By Fritz Utzeri]

[Excerpts] San Jose--"The rotation of power among the political parties is essential for maintaining a democratic regime. Perpetuation in office is one of the factors which kill democracy. The people, who have developed a strong civic conscience, have become aware of this fact."

This statement was made by Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo in an interview with JORNAL DO BRASIL.

He emphasized the need for economic cooperation among Latin American countries to face the protectionist measures established by developed countries such as the United States, "which only seek to guarantee their markets."

This cooperation must be implemented regardless of "the ideological differences existing among regimes," since he considers that there are now only three true democracies in the continent, "and if we were to wait until all countries are democratized to foster cooperation, our people would ultimately be harmed."

[Question] Why do you think Costa Rica has quite different characteristics from those of other Latin American countries?

[Answer] Costa Rica is what it is because the people have a high sense of civic values and good intellectual training, and thus are able to reason responsibly and with maturity. A sense of freedom, which is not linked to any one political party, also prevails here. Thus, during an election campaign, the citizen is free from superficial values, such as those of political parties, and acts with great social responsibility. I do not know how other countries are, but this is my country.

[Question] In your opinion, why was the opposition able to win after two terms of government by the National Liberation Party?

[Answer] There are many reasons. The Oduber government killed the people's hopes regarding continuity. Our country has a very strong institutional rule, which supports and maintains the rotation of political parties within the government. We have always had government rotation here and, had it been otherwise, perpetuation in power--which is a factor that kills democracy--would have transformed Costa Rica into a country like many others in the continent. We won the elections because the desire for a change of government was very strong and the Oduber government was bad for the country--increasing foreign indebtedness greatly, raising taxes terribly, condoning waste, creating advantages for a small group, and conducting a partisan government which disregarded the interests of all Costa Ricans. Furthermore, we won because we are a new movement which steamrolled the traditional opposition party, referred to as the "accommodating party," because it is used to losing elections while its leaders gain personal advantage. That is an undesirable political structure in which we did not participate and which we never understood.

[Question] Some people call you a conservative. What is your political orientation?

[Answer] I am a Christian-socialist, and our movement is characterized by its desire to revamp the institutions, to modernize them by bringing them up to a level of unreserved progress. I would say that our adversaries are conservatives, not us.

[Question] On the question of foreign policy, how will relations with neighboring countries be handled?

[Answer] We will cultivate those relations closely, with respect, firmness and determination. We will maintain cordiality, peace and harmony.

[Question] Costa Rica is having problems with Nicaragua because of attacks by the Liberation Front which were denounced by President Anastasio Somoza. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] That the problem is with the current government, but I doubt that we will provide bases for movements against governments of neighboring countries.

[Question] Even when those governments violate human rights so impudently?

[Answer] Each country should be responsible for its own situation. The so-called "springboard countries" end up risking the peace of their own peoples. I have no proof that the Sandinists operate from this country, but if I did, I would not let them continue. The institutionalized countries must not let themselves be used as a springboard for revolutions elsewhere, because, I repeat, letting themselves be used that way may endanger the peace of their own peoples.

[Question] Considering Costa Rica's moral force, what can your country do in defense of human rights?

[Answer] Provide an example. This is the most important thing it can do. Human rights are not violated only when someone is beaten or killed; even here we have had some subtle violations of human rights, such as tying the retirement of an old man to a party vote. I believe that by reestablishing full respect for human rights we will be setting an example for the whole continent, and this should be our role.

[Question] What kind of relations does your government intend to maintain with Brazil?

[Answer] Our relations with Brazil and other nations on the continent will be fraternal. We believe that we have a common destiny, and we should be interested in promoting progress for the benefit of all our people. Our mission is to rescue those groups who are not in the mainstream socially and to find formulas for the just distribution of wealth. If in that effort we can point to some directions which can be followed by other countries, we will be very gratified.

[Question] Is government participation in the economy very strong in Costa Rica?

[Answer] It is much stronger than in many Latin American countries.

[Question] And how do you feel about it?

[Answer] In some cases, such as in banks and insurance companies, I believe that participation is very positive. In other sectors, however, the results of that participation are relative, and I believe that they should be left in the hands of private enterprises exclusively. If they remain in the hands of the state, the government is forced to submit consumers to price pressures which affect the nation's well-being.

[Question] As for cooperation with Brazil and other coffee-producing countries in the world coffee organization, what are you planning to do?

[Answer] One of the greatest interests of the Caribbean coffee-producing countries is to stabilize stocks and maintain a restriction policy on consumption so as to work out a good price policy, preventing consumers from taking advantage of periods of abundant supply to greatly lower prices on the international market. This has been provided for in the international coffee agreement, and we want to see that agreement revived for the benefit of producing countries. So, we will maintain close relations with the countries in our area and in South America, particularly Brazil and Colombia--coffee-producing countries which have an international trade policy in which we are closely interested.

[Question] Because of U.S. protectionism in recent years which affected many countries in the continent--countries producing coffee, raw materials and manufactured goods--there is a trend toward the creation of organizations to defend the prices of those products. What do you think about this?

[Answer] It is a very positive trend. Problems stemming from dependency cause great damage to our countries, and we must adopt a defensive stand. This demands solidarity above anything else.

[Question] Do you believe that cooperation should be conducted above political and ideological differences?

[Answer] Yes, because if we have to wait for all Latin American countries to have democratic regimes--only three countries have a broad democratic representation now--the situation will be very difficult. We will have to wait too long, and only our people will suffer.

[Question] Do you believe economic integration is possible in Latin America?

[Answer] The process is underway, but it is being slowed by many pressures from groups in the various industrialized countries interested in keeping their markets. Some aspects of the Central American Common Market experience were positive, helping bring to light limitations and problems our countries face in international trade. Nonetheless, the existing organizations must be reactivated and revived and we must try to attain greater integration.

EL SALVADOR

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS END STRIKE. RETURN TO WORK

PA140322Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Labor Ministry reported today that 7,000 striking construction workers have returned to their jobs. The workers went on strike 4 February demanding collective labor contracts with more than 300 companies. The companies claimed that the salary increases demanded by the workers were exceedingly high and that they could not possibly accept them.

GUATEMALA

ELECTIONS TO CAUSE POSTPONEMENT OF BELIZE TALKS

PA131940Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan electoral campaign that will conclude on Sunday, 5 March, will force a postponement of the negotiations with Great Britain to solve the conflict over the sovereignty of Belize. Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes said today that conversations will be resumed after March. A first round of bilateral negotiations held in Washington a few weeks ago did not yield any substantial agreement, except the decision to continue diplomatic work.

According to observers and groups interested in solving the Belize conflict, the postponement forced by the elections could be used to iron out some points aimed at a "solution in principle." In spite of the foreign minister's denial, the same observers do not reject the possibility of a partition of the territory in order for Guatemala to obtain a corridor that will give it a new outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. Guatemala, in turn, will accept the independence of the greater part of Belize. Such a solution has been proposed by Great Britain and is supported by part of the Guatemalan population, which would be called to a referendum on the issue, according to government sources.

PRESIDENT LAUGERUD GUARANTEES REPORTING FREEDOM

PA131648Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] With his characteristic open mindedness and friendly attitude toward newsmen, President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud Garcia told them during a news conference held at the national palace that the news media will have full guarantees during election day on 5 March. However, he added, the electoral council is an autonomous corporation and, as such, it can set up its own communications system and news releasing procedure.

KIDNAPED INDUSTRIALIST RELEASED AFTER RANSOM PAID

PA132205Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2135 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here today that industrialist Luis Arimany Comas, who was kidnaped by unidentified individuals almost 3 months ago, has been released. The industrialist was released after his family paid an undisclosed ransom.

Arimany, owner of a paper company, today said he had been treated well by the kidnapers. He was kidnaped by eight men armed with submachineguns who held him prisoner in a still unknown location.

NICARAGUA

MADRID EMBASSY DENIES PLANS TO BUY ARMS FROM SPAIN

PA131412Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1225 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Madrid, 13 Feb (EFE)--The Nicaraguan Embassy in Madrid today denied a report published in Caracas that arrangements are being made to buy \$100 million in armaments from Spain. The Venezuelan newspaper EL NACIONAL published a report to the effect that the Nicaraguan Government had placed Gaston Cajina, Nicaraguan ambassador to Switzerland, in charge of negotiating the purchase.

Questioned about the matter, Cesar Salinas, counselor of the Nicaraguan Embassy in this capital, categorically denied that any arms purchase is being arranged in Spain. He said that the confusion had arisen because last year Nicaragua purchased \$100 million of heavy machinery. "These were not arms but machinery for agriculture and roadbuilding," he said.

Salinas admitted that Cajina had been in Madrid a few days ago but stressed that this had been a personal trip by Cajina because his family lives in Madrid and he travels frequently to Spain for that reason.

RADIO, TELEVISION NEWSCASTERS LIFT STRIKE

PA131826Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1512 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The leading radio newscasters of this capital today lifted their 3-week-old strike today.

Upon resuming their work today, radio newscasters recapitulated the serious events that followed Chamorro's assassination. Most news media placed special emphasis on the need for the authorities to continue the investigation into the crime until its "masterminds" are discovered.

SAN JOSE EMBASSY DENIES REPORTS OF MERCENARIES

PA131903Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1808 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica has denied that mercenaries are serving in the Nicaraguan Army. At the same time, it called attention to the agreement existing between the banned Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua and the PLO for cooperation in the field of combat.

In a note sent to local news media, the embassy affirmed that reports of the alleged presence of mercenaries within the Nicaraguan Army merely constituted a smokescreen so that the agreement by which the PLO would aid the leftist Sandinist movement can go unnoticed.

According to the embassy, the only two foreigners advising the National Guard in Nicaragua are karate experts, who are giving classes in self-defense.

NOVEDADES SCORES U.S. ON HUMAN RIGHTS STAND

PA112023Y Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 9 Feb 78 p 52 PA

[Luis Manuel Martinez article: "A Small, Unimportant Country"]

[Text] Ever since the Carter administration came to power and began to use the foreign aid program as an instrument of political pressure by making it subject to incomplete and not always accurate reports on human rights, the White House has been entangled in flagrant inconsistencies and has had to back off its crusade on several occasions.

First of all, the USSR vigorously rejected U.S. interference and clearly warned that the policy of coexistence and exchange between Washington and Moscow was being endangered.

The same thing occurred with Fidel Castro. In the ABC interview with Barbara Walters, he defined as secondary certain controversial Western values which are ranked at the pinnacle of virtuous conquests of democracy.

Freedom of expression, among others, was one of the rights which Castro considered to be completely insignificant. "Here we have freedom only to defend the revolution, not to attack it. If this is a condition for the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States, we can say that we are not interested in those relations," Castro said. Castro's statement was unequivocal.

The violations of human rights in Uganda, South Africa, Rhodesia, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, the Philippines, South Korea and Poland, to name some of the 132 countries which accompany us on the "black list," are an essential characteristic of their respective governments.

The White House is not concerned about those violations. However, "a small, unimportant country" like our Nicaragua, which has no petroleum, diamonds or uranium and which is not located in a strategic part of the world, is a perfect choice to be the U.S. sacrificial lamb.

Nicaragua must bear what the Washington POST--in its editorial of 8 February, titled "Reports on Human Rights"--describes as acts of humiliation against a country which acceded to all the U.S. demands--acts which have no result other than to fill the Sandinists and bourgeoisie with pride and launch them on this delirious rush to take preposterous actions. Far from weakening or undermining the government, these actions have consolidated it, because of its firm and unyielding determination to serve out its legitimate and constitutional mandate until after general elections have given Nicaragua a new president in 1981.

When State Department officials talk with some of those Nicaraguan visitors who arrive to seek support to overthrow the government, they emphasize that we are entering a critical phase--that we are just around the corner from the time in which a new leader will appear as if by magic.

And our patriots for hire, committing the same fatal error as the anti-Castro Cubans who have been waiting for almost 20 years for the successive incumbents of the White House to liquidate the communist satrapy in the Caribbean, remain on their knees waiting for the moment to come to replace the present government.

"We have noted that Nicaragua has taken important steps in the area of human rights during the past year, mainly to please the United States. Moreover, to its regret, and as a logical consequence of this policy of softening, it must not only face internal disturbances which increase daily, but is also subject to new humiliation from the United States. There is, therefore, a double, or triple, or quadruple standard, which is unacceptable."

Another paragraph in the editorial of the openly liberal newspaper published in the U.S. capital states: "But a small and unimportant country like Nicaragua can be criticized and castigated."

This is how we explain the dreary succession of guerrilla invasions from Costa Rica: The guerrillas have been trained and weapons have been purchased for them; the unpunished activities of other guerrillas on the northern border and the heroism of certain bourgeois groups which threw themselves into the odyssey of a general strike that had no more effect than eight crazy and fantastic columns in LA PRENSA.

Not even the mixture of oil and water (big business with violent Marxists) has shaken the foundations of the system.

The threats to reduce or suspend military aid, rather than injuring our country, demonstrate the arbitrary interference involved in the theory of human rights. If these rights need gendarmes and guards, the theorists who proliferate on the banks of the Potomac are not the best ones to tell the Latin American countries how they should be applied or respected.

The absurd belief that only a democratic system like that of the United States can keep a people happy is as ridiculous today as it was in John Fitzgerald Kennedy's time. The presidents from the Democratic Party are determined to subject us to their style and their philosophical concept of liberty. They have 200 million inhabitants, the greatest potential for production wealth and the highest per capita income in the world.

We are wallowing in poverty and continue to be "developing" countries. The Washington POST does not disguise the coercive position being taken by the Carter administration within the International Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It describes this position as a "particularly inept and harmful maneuver."

Because we are an unimportant country, we wish to exercise the privilege of determining our own destiny. Human rights, as defined in the UN Charter or declarations signed in 1948, are obsolete 30 years later, because they do not take into account the influence of terrorism and subversion which occur in open disregard for those rights.

The outcry by news agencies, the slander and half-truths, and the commonplace talk [los lugares comunes] about the 40 years of Somoza rule will not alter our path.

Those who desire a change have a date for the 1981 elections. Before then, all violence will continue to fail and will be charged to the prolonged people's struggle which the Marxists are carrying out on our territory with the cooperation of certain sectors of myopic, immature, trivial capitalists. Those capitalists allow themselves the luxury of playing at a strike with no valid justification for sowing chaos, the fruits of which will be harvested by the guerrillas. They are sowing the tragedy that could cause their own destruction.

WRT SUBMITTED FOR 5 SANDINIST GUERRILLAS

PA140427Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0211 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Aguiles Centeno Perez, defense lawyer for five of the Sandinist guerrillas, today submitted a writ to the Masaya court of appeals requesting the public appearance of his five defendants. The writ was issued against the commander in chief of the armed forces, Gen Anastasio Somoza, and the chief of the security office, Gen Samuel Genie Amaya.

The lawyer asks that defendants Roberto Montenegro Pastrana, Hugo Castillo Ramirez, Marvin Palacios Chavez, Alejandro Amador Guzman and Jose Domingo Mora Robledo appear in person.

Some of these prisoners were wounded in the attack staged by members of the outlawed Sandinist National Liberation Front against the Polvora garrison in Granada on 2 February.

In his writ to the court of appeals, Centeno Perez charges that his defendants were transferred on 7 February to Managua jails which are under the jurisdiction of the officials named in the writ. The lawyer claims that, according to the constitution, after 10 days fixed by law for investigation, the defendants must either be arraigned before a court of law or set free.

PARAGUAYAN CP LEADERS CONTINUE ACTIVITIES IN HAVANA

Welcomed by Raul Castro

FL131930Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC, has welcomed Antonio Maidana, general secretary of the Paraguayan Communist Party, at Jose Marti International airport. Together with Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, members of that political organization's Central Committee, arrived in our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee.

The Paraguayan communist leaders had endured 19 years of imprisonment in the dungeons of the Alfredo Stroessner regime, from which they were released following a broad international movement demanding their freedom.

PCC Politburo Member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, PCC Secretariat member Raul Garcia Lepez and other PCC Central Committee members also welcomed the visitors. Hundreds of persons gathered at the air terminal to greet the outstanding Paraguayan militants.

Other Activities Reported

FL132200Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Antonio Maidana, general secretary of the Paraguayan Communist Party, this morning visited the Lenin vocational school accompanied by Education Minister and PCC Central Committee member Jose Ramon Fernandez and Oscar Fernandez Mell, president of Havana City People's Government Provincial Assembly and member of the PCC Central Committee. Together with Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, members of the visiting delegation, Maidana was extensively briefed by Zaida Romero, principal of the school, on the operation of this type of educational center and its contribution to our country's educational system. The delegation toured the facilities of the center to learn about its special characteristics.

The members of the delegation of that fraternal party, Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, also visited the Alamar housing project. The delegation was accompanied to the project by Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America Department, and received there by Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Havana City Province, as well as Aurora Rodriguez, deputy chief of the microbrigade plan.

The Paraguayan communist leaders toured different areas, visiting one of the comfortable apartments built by members of microbrigades. The communist visitors also stopped at the community policlinic where its director, Delfin Perez Caballero, briefed them on services provided by the center and how the mass organizations assist specialized organizations.

CASTRO HOLDS TALKS WITH POLISARIO FRONT LEADER

FL131750Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of our party, has held talks with Bachir Mustafa Sayed, deputy secretary general of the POLISARIO Front. Mustafa Sayed heads a delegation of that organization which is visiting our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. Participating in the talks, which were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, were the other members of the POLISARIO Front delegation and PCC Politburo member Pedro Miret.

PNR HOLDS NATIONAL MEETING OF POLICE CHIEFS

FL132305Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 13 Feb 78 FL

[Text] A national meeting of provincial police chiefs of the Revolutionary National Police [PNR] chaired by Interior Vice Minister Brig Gen Enio Leyva Fuentes and PNA Chief Col Pascual Rodriguez Braza has been held to review work and disseminate experience in order to reduce criminal activity.

At the 2-day meeting, reports submitted by PNR chiefs of provinces and the special municipality of Isle and Pines were discussed and operational work dealing with prevention and repression of criminal activities and antisocial elements were critically examined. During their speeches, each police chief referred to the criminal groups operating in his territory and measures applied to investigate their actions.

In considering work accomplished, measures applied which required increased police action to investigate crimes and arrest the guilty were submitted for the consideration of the participants. The use of criminal techniques in identifying persons and in apprehending criminal elements and escapees who, due to their own status, repeated offenses was an encouraging experience.

Among the provinces reporting less police activity due to the number of investigated cases and efficiency of their efforts were Guantanamo, Matanzas, Holguin, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba. Compared to previous months, the provinces of Havana City, Santiago de Cuba, Camaguey, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus and Las Tunas reported fewer cases of robbery with the use of force during the last 3 months of 1977.

Col Pascual Rodriguez Braza explained in his speech that, in order to combat delinquency with greater efficiency, special courses will be taught at police schools for officers in public service. In his speech Maj Mario Garcia referred to activities that have been scheduled for the 11th World Youth and Students Festival which require special police training. Maj Enrique Arias of the traffic section reported on the more important aspects included in the bill modifying the current traffic laws. Maj Alfredo Proenza spoke about the new responsibilities of the police as outlined by the new law on criminal procedure with respect to police instructors and investigations.

The closing remarks were made by Brig Gen Enio Leyva Fuentes, who praised the critical and self-critical nature of the reports submitted at the meeting. The high official pointed out the need for improving the quality of police work with the aim of obtaining concrete results in diminishing the crime national rate. Enio Leyva termed 1978 as a year of hard work with a great number of commitments to be fulfilled, but added that the police will have the aid and support of the party and mass organizations. In closing he exhorted the participants to make the best use of criminal techniques and improve the quality of police administrative work, which begins at the unit level and peaks during its processing by PNR chiefs.

JOURNALISTS DENOUNCE ACTIONS OF SOMOZA GOVERNMENT

FL112056Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Executive Secretariat of the Union of Cuban Journalists in a statement made public today scores the Somoza government in Nicaragua for ordering the shutdown of 4 radio stations and 60 news programs as well as discharging from their positions 300 journalists who oppose the regime.

CTC OPENS SEMINAR ON LABOR LEGISLATION

PL172120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1702 GMT 13 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Agapito Figueroa, second secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], made the opening remarks at the seminar on labor legislation which began today at the CTC building with the participation of secretaries for labor organization and labor and social affairs from all trade unions. The meeting is chaired by Manuel Sanchez, chief of the CTC labor and social affairs department, as well as other officials.

The participants are discussing and submitting for consideration problems dealing with the application of the agreements and resolutions on seniority, traditional wages, evaluations and available personnel.

The meeting is scheduled to conclude this afternoon with a speech by PCC Central Committee member and CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga.

BRIEFS

IL-62M FOR CUBANA--The third of four IL-62M's acquired in the Soviet Union for Cubana de Aviacion has arrived in Havana on its first commercial flight. The first of these powerful jetplanes arrived in Cuba in August 1977. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL]

MININT VANGUARD ACTIVITIES--PCC Central Committee Members Raul Curbelo Morales, first secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, and Facundo Martinez Vallant have held a fraternal meeting with the 1977 vanguard members of the Interior Ministry [MININT]. The honored guests, who are attached to the Camaguey command, pledged before the party leadership to continue the daily efforts they make in fulfillment of their duties in operational missions and services of that branch of the armed forces. In a brief speech Curbelo said he was happy to meet with the outstanding military, whom he called selfless guardians of the working people's gains. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 78 FL]

ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENON DAMAGE--An atmospheric phenomenon called prefrontal low [ondonada prefrontal] has pounded areas of Colon municipality in Matanzas, killing 6 persons, wounding more than 70, destroying some 20 houses and damaging several others. Julian Rizo, first secretary of the party in the province; Antonio Rodriguez, president of the People's Government Provincial Assembly Executive Committee, and civil defense officials have inspected the areas affected by the strong winds. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL]

COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS URGE BRITISH COOPERATION ON BELIZE

FL132055Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 8 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Commonwealth Caribbean prime ministers have called on Britain to co-operate fully with Belize and its supporters in the hemisphere to bring "an early and peaceful" solution to the territorial dispute with Guatemala.

The call has come in a joint statement issued simultaneously by the prime ministers of Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, on the question of independence for Belize.

The statement has been sent to the British Government, and was released in Barbados yesterday by Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams at a press conference at government headquarters. With him was External Affairs Minister Mr. Henry Forde.

In an introduction to the statement, Prime Minister Adams said that "one of the most serious issues facing the Caribbean", was the question of the territorial integrity of Belize.

He said that the governments of the independent territories of the Caribbean have always maintained that not one inch of Belizean territory must be ceded to Guatemala against the wishes of the people of Belize.

Mr. Adams added that in view of the fact that no real progress has been made during recent talks held in London between Belizean Premier Mr. George Price and the British Government, the prime ministers of the independent Caribbean territories had contacted Mr. Price and agreed to let Britain know of the "mounting concern" at the "inconclusive discussions" between Britain and Belize.

The prime ministers' statement said that they had noted the recent statements by the British prime minister and the foreign secretary as well as those made by Premier Price.

They have reaffirmed that "the inviolability and territorial integrity of Belize must be preserved and therefore strongly object to cession of land as a means of settling the dispute over the claim of Guatemala to part of the territory of Belize."

The statement said that the prime ministers, governments and people of the commonwealth Caribbean "remain firmly committed to the principle of self-determination and to the right of the people of Belize to independence and territorial integrity with secure borders."

"All Caribbean people holding firm to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, fully support the resolutions passed at successive meetings of the UN in which the rights of the peoples of Belize to self-determination, independence and territorial integrity have been overwhelmingly approved", said the statement.

The statement continued: "The Commonwealth heads of government conference in 1977 also reaffirmed the commitment of the Commonwealth to these self-same principles which all governments of the Caribbean have repeatedly and unequivocally set forward as being of vital importance to the peace and stability of our region."

"The prime ministers therefore call on the Government of the United Kingdom to continue in its efforts in full cooperation with the Government of Belize and other countries in the hemisphere to bring an early and peaceful solution to the long-standing problem which has prevented the people of Belize from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination, independence, and territorial integrity.

"The prime ministers reiterate their belief that cession of land is not a just solution, but that territorial integrity must be preserved," said the statement.

JAMAICA

MANLEY CONCERNED OVER POSTPONEMENT OF CARICOM MEETING

FL111850Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Feb 78 pp 1, 11 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley has expressed great concern over the putting off of a meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers which should have been held next week, but had to be postponed because Trinidad and Tobago have found the dates unsuitable.

An official release quoted the prime minister as saying before he left on Monday that it was hoped that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago would very shortly be proposing alternative dates with a view to the earliest possible re-scheduling of what it described as this most important meeting.

The release said:

Prior to his departure from the island today, the prime minister, the Hon. Michael Manley, issued the following statement:

"It was with great concern that we learned on Friday evening last of the postponement of the 12th meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers which had been scheduled for 15th and 16th February.

"This has come about as a result of a telegram received by the CARICOM Secretariat from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on Friday stating that 'in light of prior commitments both at ministerial and official levels, proposed dates for 12th meeting CARICOM Council unsuitable.'

"Following consultation with other member states of CARICOM, the Secretariat had no alternative but to suggest postponement of the meeting. Jamaica, and indeed other CARICOM member states, have continued to stress the importance of the earliest possible meeting of CARICOM heads of government and it had been hoped that the council meeting would have provided an opportunity for member states to review the current state of CARICOM, study some of the problems besetting the integration movement and hopefully make some progress in the search for solutions. This late postponement must be regarded as a serious setback and it is hoped that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will very shortly be proposing alternative dates with a view to the earliest possible rescheduling of this most important meeting."

Manley Arrives in Budapest

For Budapest reportage on the official visit beginning 13 February of Prime Minister Michael Manley to the Hungarian People's Republic, see the Hungary section of the 14 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

GOVERNMENT SETS BACK CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM TO 1981

FL102110Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Lack of public support and financial problems have forced the government to set back the proposed referendum on the constitution to 1981, or four years from the time of launching instead of the originally proposed 18 months. An API release issued this week announced government's decision to extend to four years the public education programme.

Nothing was said in the API announcement to indicate the reason government had decided to extend to four years the period for public debate on the constitution.

It has been reliably learned, however, that since it was launched in July last year, the programme has received little public support, with meetings being poorly attended and, in some instances, not attended by a single person. Another major difficulty was financial, as it had not been allocated a budget in the way such projects are. It was learned that officers had difficulty collecting travelling and other expenses incurred on the job.

According to the schedule announced at its launching in July, the public education programme on constitutional reform was to have ended about December this year and followed by six months of parliamentary debate of the proposals.

It was anticipated, therefore, that the whole process of public and parliamentary debate should cover a span of two years, ending about the middle of next year.

An API release on Tuesday stated: "Experience has shown that a longer period is required to provide the opportunity for all Jamaicans to be meaningfully involved in reviewing the constitution and to say what they would like put in or taken out of that document."

By extending the period of public debate to four years, conclusion of this process will now be accomplished about the middle of 1981. And, if six months are taken for the parliamentary process, the matter is not likely to be resolved before the end of 1981.

The API also announced wide-ranging plans to revise the programme. While it was originally planned to conduct the programme at four levels, namely, village, community, parish and regional, using specially appointed personnel, it is now proposed to use all the field assistance available from a number of organizations. These bodies include the Social Development Commission, JAMAL [Jamaican Movement for Advancement of Literacy], Agency for Public Information, 4-H Clubs and other organizations.

"The organizations will be directly serviced by six regional officers from the Constitutional Reform Division. These field officers will be stationed in Montego Bay, St. James, Mandeville in Manchester; Port Antonio in Portland; St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann; May Pen in Clarendon, and Kingston", the release stated.

Since the launching of the programme in July, about 620 meetings have been held islandwide including forums, students meetings, constituency conferences and other group meetings. Approximately 100,000 persons attended these meetings and 50,000 participated. In addition, there had been a number of media programmes, the API said.

WILLS RESIGNS; NEW FOREIGN MINISTER NAMED

PA131634Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Georgetown, 13 Feb (AFP)--Guyanese Foreign Minister Fred Wills has resigned, reliable sources have reported here. However, there has been no official confirmation. Wills had also been minister or charge d'affaires of Guyana to various African countries, with residence in Zambia. The same sources announced that the present acting ambassador to the United Nations, Rashleigh Jackson [as received], will be the new foreign minister.

GOVERNMENT WARNS AGAINST PRESSURE ON BELIZE

FL132045Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Feb 78 pp 1, 3 PA

[Text] The Guyana Government last night warned that any limitation on the sovereign right to independence and territorial integrity of Belize can have serious implications for the security of other states in this part of the world.

The warning came in a statement issued by the government in the wake of reports suggesting that pressure is being put on Belize to cede part of its territory in exchange for independence free from aggression by Guatemala which claims the whole of the Belizean American member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Premier George Price recently announced that talks aimed at resolving the protracted dispute had collapsed in London, and there have been suggestions that the matter might have to go to the Belizean people.

But some reports said that Britain has refused to guarantee the integrity of the former colony after independence, and Mr. Price has said assistance might be sought from other Commonwealth states.

The Guyana Government statement called on the British Government to unequivocally reject the possibility of cession of any part of Belize as the price for the achievement of independence.

The government reiterated its commitment to a nation's inalienable right to independence and territorial integrity--a right emphasised by almost all member states of the United Nations, most of whom have openly supported Belize's claim to independence with its borders intact.

The government press release said:

The Government of Guyana notes with increasing alarm reports which seem to indicate that a decision is being arrived at, making the cession of a part of their territory a condition which the people of Belize would have to pay for their independence.

The Government of Guyana is deeply concerned that the British Government should have been persuaded to the view that the possibility of territorial adjustments should be included among the various options which needed to be considered in determining whether or not Belize should be granted independence.

The people of Belize have an inalienable right to independence and territorial integrity. There can be no arrangements made regarding this right which does not have the full support of the government and people of Belize.

The Government of Guyana is fully committed to this view and feels encouraged in its stand since the vast majority of states-members of the United Nations have already come out in their support for an independence Belize with its present borders intact.

Any limitation therefore on Belize's absolute right to independence and territorial integrity constitutes an affront to the international community and introduces a new principle which, if imposed without the full consent of the government and people of Belize, can have serious implications for the security of other states within the region.

The Government of Guyana therefore calls on the British Government to reject categorically the possibility of cession of a portion of Belize's territory as the price which the people of Belize must pay for their independence.

BURNHAM SAYS COUNTRY CAN FIGHT PROBLEMS

01111855Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Feb 78 p 9 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 31 Jan (CANA)--Guyana has been feeling the pressure of external economic factors, such as imported inflation, over which it has no control, but the country has qualities which will help it to overcome its current economic problems, Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has said. Guyana's advantages included a population density of 10 persons per square mile, fertile soil, rich timber and mineral resources, as well as productive fishing grounds, he told the 16th batch of participants in a "development education" programme run by his ruling Peoples' National Congress (PNC). Excerpts of Mr. Burnham's speech have been reported in the PNC organ "NEW NATION."

The development education programme involves work, study and live-in with communities. It is said by its organisers to be aimed at exposing persons from all walks of life, from managers to messengers, to the life of all Guyanese. The programme is run out of the office of the Ministry of National Development, which also incorporates the office of the PNC general secretary.

Mr. Burnham told the current participants as their course drew to a close that agriculture was identified as the means of saving the Guyana economy. Because of this emphasis he said they should not expect that they would be exempted from the agricultural thrust since they would have to lead by example. Mr. Burnham also hit at the tastes which he said Guyanese had inherited, and the tendency for people to want their children to be trained as clerks. This tendency should cease and Guyanese children should be trained in productive pursuits, so there could be proper labour placement, he said. "We do not live in isolation; we live in a world that has certain economic structures, most of which are at least many of which are in opposition to what we want," he said.

Guyana lives in a part of the world of capitalist domination and capitalist rule, and "we are attempting to break out from that, pave a better life for ourselves. The environment in which we live, the international environment in which we have our existence, is such as to create a number of pressures because the capitalist system, which up to now is the larger of the two major systems of the world, has certain weaknesses and contradictions which bring about crises of the type which [we] within Guyana are facing and which the greater part of the world is facing," Prime Minister Burnham said. He cited inflation as the main problem arising out of that situation, especially the type of inflation which followed the oil price increases of the early 1970s.

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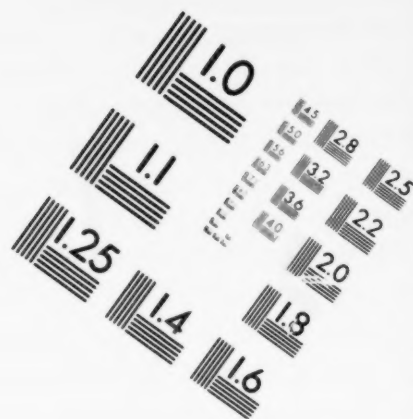
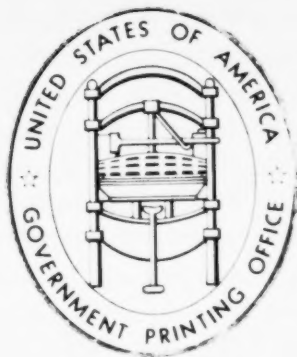
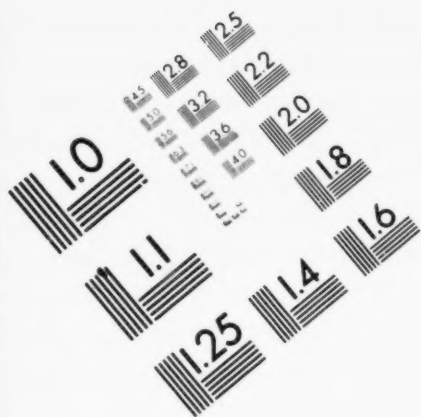
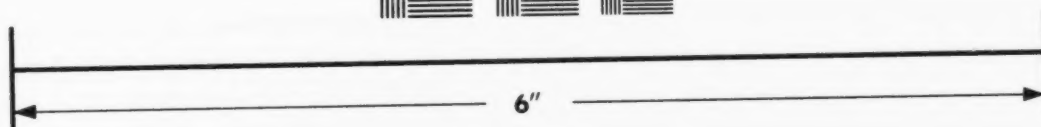
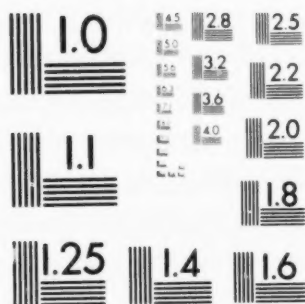


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